

Dear chair Greenlick and members of the House Healthcare Committee:

I am one of your constituents and a mental health service provider in the Portland area. I am writing in support of HB3427.

I am deeply dedicated to providing excellent mental health service to Portland area residents. Adequate reimbursement is vital to supporting my capacity to provide this care. Unlike medical providers, mental health providers cannot run multiple treatment rooms at one time. Client care is provided on a 1 to1 basis. During the allotted treatment time, the client and/or client's family is given the provider's sole focus.

In addition to paid treatment hours, mental health providers allot many unpaid hours to drafting progress notes, treatment plans, coordination of care, billing matters, and other unreimbursed services. Most of us cannot afford office staff to do this at current rates of reimbursement. I generally spend at least one- half unpaid service hour for each paid treatment hour.

Adequate reimbursement for the treatment hour is absolutely necessary for care providers to cover overhead and unpaid service hours. Your support of this bill will help providers give quality mental health service to Portland residents. Research shows that physical health is significantly impacted by mental health; good mental health care is essential to a healthy population.

Your support for HB3427 will support the overall health of Portland residents. Thank you for your public service and your kind consideration of this letter.

Warm Regards,

Elizabeth

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